



Joseph hangs out  
1,000 feet above  
the streets and  
skyscrapers of  
Toronto from the  
Edgewalk at the  
CN Tower!

*Travel is Fatal to Prejudice, Bigotry and Narrow-mindedness.*

*- Mark Twain*

## Greetings!

Welcome to 2012 — may it be a happy, healthy and prosperous year for one and all!

The calendar's turn is a great time to assess how far we've come and plot a path for the future. When your life is about traveling constantly you spend tons of time and energy crafting your next itinerary which can leave little time to stop and appreciate what's gone before.

So, let's begin: We're grateful to have finished shooting our 78th show, winning an Emmy®, as well as four Tellys, SATW and Lowell Thomas awards for video, audio and our web site in 2011. We're thankful to our Season 5 underwriters: Rosetta Stone and DK and our **Christmas in Switzerland Special** underwriters: Volvo Overseas Delivery, No-Jet-Lag and Park Air Express.

In the immediate future we are editing our thirteen Season 6 shows for delivery

to your public television station by June 2012. My producer and wife, Julie, is putting together the slate of Season 7 shoots which include Bhutan, Japan, Berlin and Africa. And I look forward to attending and speaking at the New York Times Travel Show March 2 - 4. To keep up with our comings and goings follow us on Facebook, Twitter and subscribe to my Blog.

Thank you so much for your lovely, kind and generous e-mails, phone calls and postings. It encourages us to know that you understand and appreciate the efforts we make to create a series that informs, educates and enlightens.

We know times have been difficult and travel opportunities may seem limited. Yet, dreaming is free and when you are ready to make your dreams come true — count on us to be ready to help! Happy Traveling!

## In This Issue:

Getting Around .....	2
Celebrations USA.....	2
Destination Hot Spot: Hong Kong .....	3
Dateline: The World .....	3
High Adventures in the Peruvian Andes .....	4
Resorts, Hotels 'n' Inns .....	7
C'est Magnifique in Martinique .....	8
Spotlight On: San Miguel de Allende .....	10
Bookmarks .....	11

## Getting Around

Take a walk 116 stories high with nothing but air between you and the breathtaking views of Lake Ontario 1,000 feet below on the **Edgewalk at the CN Tower**, Toronto's newest and most extreme attraction. The first of its kind in North America, thrill-seekers walk outdoors along a narrow ledge atop the world's tallest tower and lean out over the edge while tied to a harness and wearing hard hats. Learn more at **CNTower.com**. See it on the Toronto and the Niagara Peninsula show airing on Travelscope TV during Season 6 in 2012.

Enjoy nature up close from the top of a paddle board, with **Puerto Rico Paddleboard Tours**. Participants learn the joy of stand up paddle boarding (SUP) and follow the leader along Puerto Rico's coastline, ocean and offshore reefs, through the wildlife-rich Piniones mangrove forests and on Puerto Rico's scenic inland lakes. For details, go to **PuertoRicoPaddleboardTours.com**.

Experience the magnificent Mexico landscape the way the Conquistadors did — on horseback — with **Coyote Canyon Adventures**. Half-, full- and multi-day rides explore the scenic prairies, ranches, forests and canyons surrounding San Miguel de Allende. Gallop to the canyon rim, then descend to the bottom and ride along the La Virgen River. For tour details, visit **CoyoteCanyonAdventures.com**.

Or soar over San Miguel de Allende, Mexico on a hot air balloon, drifting over the tree tops, spires and red-tile roofs of this picturesque colonial city. Then land right in the center of town on the main plaza for a champagne toast with **Coyote Canyon Adventures**. See it on the San Miguel de Allende show on Season 6 of Travelscope TV in 2012 on PBS. Contact **CoyoteCanyonAdventures.com**. See Joseph's San Miguel de Allende show airing on Travelscope TV as part of Season 6 in 2012.

**British Airways** is offering bonus room nights when you book your airfare and hotel through the airline. For example, book four nights at the 5-star **Ritz Hotel in London** and pay for three nights (through March 31, 2012) or book three nights at the **K+K Hotel Maria Theresia in Vienna** and pay for two nights (through Feb. 28, 2012). For last minute room deals as low as \$43 a night and other specials visit **BritishAirways.com**.

## Celebrations U.S.A.

The inaugural **Piatigorsky International Cello Festival** will fill Los Angeles with the sound of music, March 9-18. Master cellists from around the world will perform in venues including the Walt Disney Concert Hall to celebrate the cello, its music and musicians. Events include orchestral concerts, chamber music performances, master classes and interactive events. For festival details, visit **PiatigorskyFestival.com**. See Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope's Naturally Los Angeles show airing now on PBS.

Joseph recommends the Annual **World of Pinot Noir**, March 2-3, in Shell Beach, California (in the Central Coast wine region) which features sommeliers from across the U.S. and treats wine enthusiasts to in-depth tasting seminars, a featured tasting with a French Burgundian producer and wine dinners featuring prominent chefs. Visit **WorldofPinotNoir.com** for event details. Watch Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope's California Coast show airing June 2012 during Travelscope TV Season 6 on PBS.

It's party time in New Orleans. **Mardi Gras** culminates in beads, bands, parades and all-night revelry on Fat Tuesday February 21. But the fun begins February 4 with daily parades, balls and events. For details and hotel packages, see **MardiGrasNewOrleans.com**.

March 1-4 is the 12th annual **New York Flamenco Festival** at New York City Center, featuring sizzling performances by Spain's top three female flamenco choreographers. See **NYCityCenter.org** for details. Meet Joseph at the New York Times Travel show March 2 – 4, 2012.

Celebrate seafood in style at the 3rd annual **Key Largo Stone Crab & Seafood Festival** in the Florida Keys, January 28-29. Fresh local seafood, live entertainment, cooking demos, fishing workshops, pirate shows, arts and crafts, kids' activities, fireworks and a car show, make this a not-to-miss weekend. Go to **KeyLargoSeafoodFestival.com**.



## Destination Hot Spot: Hong Kong – City of Life!

by Barbara Beckley



Big Buddha on Lantau Island

Skyscrapers and ancient temples. Haute cuisine and dim sum. World-class shopping and eco adventure. Composed of Hong Kong Island, Lantau Island and the Kowloon Peninsula and the New Territories on the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong has it all.

Foodies enjoy more than 11,000 eateries serving everything from Shanghai's hairy crab to American steak and Michelin-starred fine cuisine. For authentic Hong Kong specialties, visit a cha chan tang (teahouse) or schedule a home-cooked meal with a Hong Kong family.

As a shopping mecca, Hong Kong is the best. Try Nathan Road for the latest fashions, electronic goods and jewelry; Canton Road for international designer styles, and Kimberley Road for funky and chic local fashions. The Temple Street Night Market is Hong Kong's famous open-air market, offering watches, leatherwear, clothing and souvenirs, as well as side-attractions such as Cantonese opera and fortune-tellers.

Must-do activities include riding the tram to the top of Victoria Peak, sailing past the floating "city" of Aberdeen, watching the Symphony of Lights, Hong Kong's nightly sound and light show, and visiting one or more of the city's 600 Chinese temples, each bustling with worshipers, fortune-tellers and a pantheon of deities.

Eco tourism is perhaps Hong Kong's best kept secret. Hiking trails abound in the mountainous New Territories including the Hong Kong Global Geopark and on Lantau Island, home of the endangered Chinese White Dolphin. Year-round festivals such as the October Wine & Dine Festival and the June Dragon Boat Festival add to the excitement. For more, go to [DiscoverHongKong.com](http://DiscoverHongKong.com). Joseph's visit to Hong Kong begins airing as part of Season 6 in 2012.

## *Dateline: The World*

"A Shimmer of Gold," the **Niagara Icewine Festival**, January 13-29 transforms the **Niagara Region of Ontario, Canada** into a wintry wonderland. Sip Ontario's celebrated icewine and enjoy gala dinners, wine seminars, chestnut roasts, ornate ice bars and winery tours. For festival details, visit [IceWineFestival.com](http://IceWineFestival.com). Look for the Niagara Peninsula show on Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope as part of Season 6 in 2012 on PBS.

January 20-29, marks the 18th **Ice Magic Festival** in **Banff-Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada** celebrating world class ice sculpture. The two-weekend event includes the International Ice Carving Competition, January 20-22, with speed-carving, demos, interpretive ice carving and more. January 28-29 is "Little Chippers Weekend" featuring ice carving lessons, the 10-block ice carving event and family activities. See [BanffLakeLouise.com](http://BanffLakeLouise.com) for festival details. Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope's Banff-Lake Louise show is airing now on PBS.

**Melbourne, Australia** comes alive with an eclectic mix of artists and performers January 15 to February 5, during the 24th **Midsumma Festival**. Ranked as one of the world's top LGBT arts and culture celebrations, visitors enjoy visual art, theatre, cabaret, film, live music and sport, social and political forums and debates. Visit [MidSumma.org/au](http://MidSumma.org/au). Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope's Victoria, Australia show is airing now on PBS.

The parades, costumes, fireworks, firecrackers, concerts and street performances are round-the-clock in **Valencia, Spain** during the spectacular **Las Fallas celebration**, March 15 - 19. Thousands of lights, elaborate figures and street displays blanket the city, culminating in a gigantic bonfire on March 19. Go to [FallasFrom-Valencia.com](http://FallasFrom-Valencia.com) for the details. Learn more about the city and festival on Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope's Valencia, Spain show that is airing now on PBS.

Don a mask and opulent costume and join the revelry for **Carnival in Venice, Italy** February 11-21. The gala masquerade features balls, shows and other Venetian merriment including costumed-tours tracing Casanova's escapades. Joseph's visit to Venice is part of Season 6 of Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope airing June 2012. Go to [Venice-Carnival-Italy.com](http://Venice-Carnival-Italy.com).

# HIGH ADVENTURE IN THE PERUVIAN ANDES

Story and Photos by Ellen Clark



There are few things that get a travel photographer's heart racing like the thought of shooting festivals in exotic locales.

Which explains why I was one of a group of photographers who had come to Peru to photograph the Festival of the Virgen del Carmen in the tiny town of Paucartambo. Located high in the Andes, this small mountain town mushrooms in size when thousands of visitors appear for the three day festival, making it the ultimate place to experience and photograph the spectacle.



Costumed Dancers Roam the Streets

Since we'd come all that way, it made sense to explore some of the key towns in the Andes on our way to the festival.

Our first stop was the colonial city of Arequipa. The second largest city in Peru, it's overshadowed by el Misti, a snow capped volcano. Spanish colonial style buildings are built with white volcanic rock, earning it the nickname "La Ciudad Blanca (White City)". Arequipa was named a UNESCO world heritage site in 2000 in recognition of its architecture and historic integrity.

One of the most outstanding attractions is the Convent of Santa Catalina. Founded in 1579, the more than 65,000 square-foot convent is stunning. Walls are painted vivid blues, salmons and ochres, gracefully arched

corridors lead to rooms full of religious statues and paintings, and cobblestone alleys are lined with pots of brightly colored flowers outside carved wooden doors. Talk about a photographer's dream.

Arequipa's San Camilo covered market sells everything from straw hats to fresh fish. It's where the locals shop, and the place to check out the astounding variety of potatoes Peru has to offer. After our short time in lovely Arequipa we boarded a van which would take us to the small town of Chivay, gateway to Colca Canyon. Along the way we were treated to stunning mountain landscapes. We photographed vicunas at the vast Reserva Nacional Salina y



Vicuna in Reserva Nacional Salina y Aguada Blanca

Aguada Blanca and found ourselves breathless after walking only a few feet. No wonder, the elevation was higher than 13,000 feet. But more was to come. Photographing from the nearly 16,000-foot Volcano Overlook of Pata-pampa, from which we could see the entire snow-capped Andes mountain chain and the famous conical volcanoes, left all of us light-headed.

After an overnight in Chivay — a mere 12,147 feet high — we headed out for an early morning trip to Colca Canyon. Touted as the deepest canyon in the world, twice as deep as the Grand Canyon, it's a spectacular sight on mornings when the winds are favorable. We watched and madly photographed an

*continued on page 5*



**continued from page 4**

Andean condor gracefully soaring in and out of the canyon's deep recesses. It was a glorious sight.

On our way to Lake Titicaca we stopped in the little town of Lampa. Located off the tourist circuit, it's a typical Andes town built around a large square. The main attraction is the magnificent colonial style Inmaculada Concepción church, which has catacombs featuring an impressive collection of skeletons.

Then it was on to Lake Titicaca. This more than 3,232-square-mile 12,500-foot-high lake borders both Peru and Bolivia. Islands are scattered across the lake, and we stayed at a lovely property on one of them. Hotel Casa Andina Private Collection on the private island of Suasi sits perched on a hill with killer views of the lake. The hotel is committed to being green. It is solar-powered and built of native materials, such as stone, adobe and thatch so as to blend in with the environment. Of all the islands we visited, Isla Flotante Uros Santa Maria was the most unusual. One of more than 40 artificial islands constructed of floating reeds, it welcomes tourists. It proved a great place to purchase handmade souvenirs, such as embroidered wall hangings and tablecloths and whimsical boats made out of reeds.

Our final pre-festival stop was the famous Andes city of Cusco. Site of the ancient capital of the Inca Empire, numerous of its colonial buildings are built on the ruins of mighty Inca palaces and temples. It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983. The cobblestone streets, visible Inca stonework and colonial architecture, combined with its proximity to Machu Pichu; make it one of the most visited cities in Peru.

After a couple of days walking around the city, visiting attractions and enjoying the comforts of the Hotel Tambo del Arriero, a charming boutique property built around a courtyard in a beautifully renovated 18th-century building on a quiet side street a few blocks from the main square, with spacious rooms and a cozy bar; it was time to hit the road for the big event.

On our way to Paucartambo we overnighted in Pisac, a town on the Urubamba River about an hour's drive from Cusco. It was decked out for the festival, and the locals were in a party mood. Men and boys in traditional garb, fueled by gallons of beer, rode through the streets on horseback. The fireworks, music and frequent ringing of church bells went on all night. But we were told that this was tame compared to what we could expect in Paucartambo.



Lake Titicaca - Isla Flotante Uros Santa Maria

The ride from Pisac to Paucartambo was an experience in itself. The road was dirt, and periodically we all had to exit the van and walk across rocky streams that flowed across the road so the van wouldn't bottom out. The road was steep and twisty, and we seldom saw another vehicle. Except for tiny enclaves of farmers and locals with their animals, it was all about the splendor of the Andes.

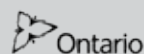
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Cusco Main Square

We knew we were nearing action central before we could even see the town of Paucartambo! Trucks, vans, cars and people clogged the road. Clearly everyone was in holiday mode, and we all steeled ourselves for a chaotic, but unforgettable experience. There was no way our van could drive into town, so we left the driver, our two cooks and our guide to figure out the luggage and leapt into the fray.

To say the town was crowded would be a gross understatement. Costumed dancers preformed in the midst of cheek-to-jowl spectators. Men carrying multiple cases of beer shoved their way through the hoards. Smoking street-side barbecues roasted entire sides of pork. It was an absolute madhouse and, needless to say, securing a spot to photograph was a serious challenge.

Finally we muscled our way down a side street to the private home where we were staying. The owner rented out rooms during the festival. My room opened onto a central courtyard and was basic at best featuring an iron bed, no box springs and a very thin mattress. To make things even more interesting, the complex had only one bathroom. Not only was it only marginally functional, it was shared by the family members, patrons of the bar next door and us.

On the plus side, the courtyard offered a welcome refuge from the chaos outside and sure beat the alternative, which was sleeping in a tent on the muddy ground in the enormous tent camp at the edge of town. And our cooks were phenomenal and prepared beyond-belief-meals including breakfast crepes, sautéed trout and chicken and guacamole tacos.

The festival was nonstop. Any time of day or night there was some sort of action. Groups of dancers dressed in fabulous

costumes pranced through the streets, church services were ongoing, beer was consumed by the truckloads, musicians played well into the night and houses throughout town had their own parties, where, it seemed, all were welcome.

On the final morning of the festival, dancers and spectators alike tramped en masse from the church to the cemetery, where tombstones and monuments were no deterrent to more beer drinking and frivolity. In the afternoon the Virgen del Carmen statue was paraded around town surrounded by masses of humanity. Finally the celebration culminated in an hour of the "locals' war," which involved raucous dancing, beer spraying, frenetic music and general hysteria. For more information on visiting Peru, go to [Peru.Travel/en](http://Peru.Travel/en).

*Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope's has seven Central and South American shows. Episodes range from Chile's capital, The Atacama Desert, Easter Island and Terra del Fuego to Guatemala's Mayan culture and monuments and the Easter Week (Semana Santa) celebration. The Guatemala shows are airing now and the last two Chilean shows will begin airing as part of Season 6 on June 2012.*

*Ellen Clark is an award-winning photographer and travel journalist based in Los Angeles.*

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# Resorts, Hotels 'n' Inns

Here are some restful values.

**R** = resort **H** = hotel **I** = inn ♥ = romance, of course.

**I** Country inn charm, modern amenities and the largest retail outlet in town make the 104-room **Apple Farm Inn** in San Luis Obispo, California a delightful choice. Every room is unique; most have canopy beds and fireplaces for a warm, cozy ambiance, especially after a day of wine-tasting in California's Central Coast wine region. The inn features a bakery, restaurant, gardens and two elaborate shops carrying hundreds of gift items and home decor. From quilts to clocks, china to sleepwear and even retro party supplies, these shops have it all. They're where the locals shop, as well as the guests. Inn rates range from \$109 to \$409 per night, depending on the room type and season. For more information go to [AppleFarm.com](http://AppleFarm.com). Look for San Luis Obispo on Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope's California Coast show airing June 2012 during Season 6 of Travelscope TV.

**H** Grand and historic elegance in the heart of Calgary, define the **Fairmont Palliser**, the place to stay in Alberta, Canada's largest city. Now, guests have an even more sumptuous experience on the new Fairmont Gold Floor.



Gold standard services include 73 amenity-filled rooms (including house iPads and free shoe shines), private check-in, a personalized concierge, continental breakfast and evening hors d'oeuvres. In addition, the Gold Floor features a penthouse-level Gold Lounge, with panoramic city skyline views. Palliser "Weekend Packages" begin at \$119 CAD for single or double occupancy in a standard room valid Thursday through Sunday. Visit [Fairmont.com/Palliser](http://Fairmont.com/Palliser). See Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope's Alberta, Canada show airing June 2012 during Season 6 of Travelscope TV.

**I** The 1832 manor house that is now the **Charles Inn** offers colonial opulence in 12 recently refurbished and beautifully appointed rooms on the main street of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada. Condé Nast Johansens recommended, its restaurant, in the original parlour,



features fine wines and extraordinary cuisine. The new Shaw Spa, in the sister property, is the city's first Vinotherapy spa. Rates range from \$99 to \$395 including continental breakfast. Go to [CharlesInn.ca](http://CharlesInn.ca) for details. Watch for the Niagara Peninsula show airing on Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope TV as part of Season 6 in 2012.

**H** In Toronto, Ontario, the landmark **Fairmont Royal York** features sumptuous luxury and one of the city's exceptional fine dining restaurants. EPIC is famous for innovative and quality regional ingredients served in an ambiance that is fluid and contemporary. Herbs grown on the hotel's rooftop and hand-harvested rooftop honey accent many dishes. As an Ocean Wise restaurant, fish and shellfish choices contribute to sustainable oceans. The "Shop With Chef, An Introduction" package includes a guided tour of the St. Lawrence Market with a hotel chef, a sample tasting at Golden Orchard Fine Foods, Peameal bacon sandwiches for two at Carousel Bakery and one night accommodations. Valid Monday to Friday through August 31, 2012. Rates begin at \$219 CAD, per night, double occupancy. Visit [Fairmont.com/RoyalYork](http://Fairmont.com/RoyalYork). Look for the Toronto and Niagara Peninsula show airing on Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope TV as part of Season 6 in 2012.



**I** The **Rosewood San Miguel de Allende** is a perfect reflection of this charming colonial town, featuring 67 beautifully appointed accommodations designed in luxe Mexican style with wood-beam ceilings, handcrafted furnishings, fireplaces, balconies, patios and high tech amenities. For sunset cocktails, the Luna Rooftop Tapas Bar is as good as it gets, with sweeping views of the Cathedral and historic center and serving authentically prepared Mexican and Spanish tapas. The "Romance Package for Two" includes first-night's turn-down service with flower petals, candles, a bubble bath, chocolate-covered strawberries and sparkling wine; an in-room Mexican breakfast and a couple's massage. From \$405 per night. Visit [RosewoodSanMiguel.com](http://RosewoodSanMiguel.com). Look for the San Miguel de Allende show on Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope as part of Season 6 which will begin airing June 2012.



## C'est Magnifique In Martinique

Story and Photos by Debbra Dunning Brouillette



Fresh Fish at the Fish Market along the River Madam in Martinique

Delights for both the eyes and palate awaited us as we stepped into the Mercedes taxi of our driver-guide Mark Martial for our day in **Martinique**. I and a friend were on a seven-day Caribbean cruise — and as dedicated foodies, we couldn't wait to experience the sights, sounds and especially the tastes of this little bit of France in the Caribbean.

We imagined ourselves to be the latest of Martial's celebrity guests. The previous week, he'd driven Ségolène Royal, French President Nicolas Sarkozy's female opponent in the 2007 election. In the late 90's, he squired Pierce Brosnan and Rene Russo during filming of "The Thomas Crown Affair," he said.

Enroute to our first scheduled appointment at a gourmet chocolaterie, we stopped at the River Madam just as fishermen were arriving to display and sell their bounties of the sea at the fish market. Baskets overflowed with flying fish and needlefish. Tables were piled with tuna, snapper, mahi mahi and dorado. By lunchtime, chefs throughout the island would transform the fishermen's fresh catch into the gour-

met fare for which Martinique has become famous.

We next strolled through the nearby spice market, where vendor displays of spices, juices, fruits and vegetables were mixed with handicrafts — dolls dressed in native plaid dresses and brooms made of palm fronds.

Martinique has taken center stage in recent years as one of the Caribbean's top cuisine scenes. In 2008 and 2009, it was named Best Gourmet Island of the Year by Caribbean World magazine. Caribbean Travel & Life readers named it favorite Caribbean destination for delectable dining in 2009, and in 2010, About.com's travel site called Martinique its Best Caribbean Destination.

Finally, it was time for our appointment with "le chocolat" at gourmet chocolaterie, Frères Lauzèa, in

Martinique's capital city of Fort-de-France. Brothers Thierry and Jimmy Lauzèa are its owners and overseers of creative candy varieties made from dark, milk and white chocolate ganache.

Ginger, rum raisin, lime, coffee, guava, soursop, mint, honey, cinnamon and hot pepper, are some of the more than 30 natural flavors that are combined with the top quality chocolate, then uniquely stamped with identifying designs made



Fresh Needlefish

*continued on page 9*



continued from page 8



Jardin de Balata botanical gardens' Hanging Bridge

from colored cocoa butter that are, in themselves, pieces of art. A more appropriate gift for a chocoholic could not be found.

We next headed north through the mountainous countryside, stopping briefly at Balata Church, a one-fifth size replica of Paris' Sacred Heart Basilica, before arriving at the Jardin de Balata botanical gardens. Once part of a private estate, Jean-Philippe Thoze, a botanical expert and landscape gardener, created the gardens over a span of two decades.

Its hundreds of varieties of tropical flowers and trees are in keeping with Martinique's original Carib Indian name, Mandinina, which means "Isle of Flowers." We strolled along flower-filled paths, and gingerly traversed 50-foot-high suspended wooden bridges that stretch over the tops of hundred-year-old trees and offer breathtaking birds-eye views of the magnificent gardens below.

Our day in Martinique ended with lunch at the highly recommended La Cave a Vins in the heart of downtown Fort-de-France. We chose a table in the sunny conservatory, featuring glass skylights and beautiful wall murals of the French wine country. As we sipped our wine (French, of course!), delightful owner Clementine Grouvel graciously translated the menu descriptions into English.

Starters of octopus salad and casserole of sea urchins were followed by our entrees: tuna (which Grouvel had purchased that morning at the fish market) seared rare and topped with a Rossini sauce of warm foie gras and morel mushrooms.

Feeling sated in every way, Martinique had quickly made its way into my heart (and stomach) in one short day.

For more information, go to [Martinique.org](http://Martinique.org).

*Debra Dunning Brouillette is a travel journalist, photographer, dedicated foodie and scuba diver based in Muncie, Indiana.*

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## Spotlight on San Miguel de Allende



Arcos Limon in the courtyard of the Casa de Sierra Nevada

**B**reathtaking Spanish colonial architecture, fine art and exquisite cuisine make San Miguel de Allende one of Mexico's most popular vacation cities.

Founded in 1542, this colonial jewel sparkles with tree-shaded parks and gorgeous boutique hotels, patio restaurants, art galleries and fine shops housed in beautifully restored colonial mansions.

The social scene revolves around El Jardin, the main plaza, which has been pleasantly landscaped and is home to the landmark La Parroquia church, famous for its unique Gothic-style.

Just a block away, the sumptuous Hotel Casa de Sierra Nevada by Orient Express offers the perfect spot to savor the city. Created from six 16th to 18th century beautifully repurposed mansions, guests feel as if they are a part of the city. Its 37 luxurious rooms and suites include the former residence of the city's Archbishop. Decorated with antiques,

local original art and hand-woven textiles, no two rooms are alike, most have working fireplaces and all have the latest comforts.

Pampering is amazing at the posh Laja Spa, which offers a full menu of purifying and rejuvenating services. For an unforgettable 145 minutes, enjoy the spiritual adventure of the Temazcal. Nestled inside a darkened chamber, indigenous chants, aromatic herbs, Mayan incense and waves of steam create a detoxifying and mind-clearing experience.

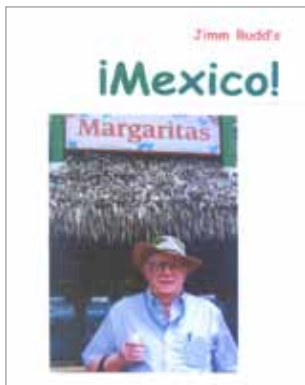
Guests also can enjoy the renowned Sazon Cooking School, and the hotel's two popular restaurants: Casa del Parque serving Mexican fare and Andanza, with continental cuisine and live music.

For more on San Miguel, go to Mexican Tourism web site: [VisitMexico.com](http://VisitMexico.com) and for more details on the hotel, visit [CasadeSierraNevada.com](http://CasadeSierraNevada.com). Look for Joseph Rosendo's Travelscope's San Miguel de Allende show featuring the Fiesta of Saint Michael the Archangel on PBS TV starting June 2012.



# Book Marks

by Barbara Beckley



No matter how well you think you know a destination — you don't know it like the people who live there.

This is what makes Jimm Budd's new e-book — **Jimm Budd's iMexico!** well worth reading. It's not a guide book in the classic tradition, but as

Budd writes, "it's a word picture book ...on just about anywhere in Mexico you might be considering for a visit, plus even more places you've never heard of."

And it's true. I visit and write about Mexico frequently, but I didn't know, until I read iMexico! that the Sea of Cortes has a flourishing black pearl industry — and I love jewelry. Thanks Jimm!

From Acapulco to Cancun and Saltillo to Zacatecas, Budd offers his insider information and insights in a breezy, off-the-cuff writing style that makes you want to be there to share his adventures. For example, he takes readers inside a home on Lake Paztuario to celebrate Nov. 1, The Day of the Dead. The family is honoring a recently deceased family member with an altar set with marigolds and his favorite foods. Budd writes, "This year, his (the deceased's) spirit will come back for one last visit to the family home. After that his spirit will return annually for a few years to his grave, until he gradually forgets about the living, just as the living forget about the dead."

Budd covers everything from history, news, attractions, anecdotes, things to do, festivals, culture and collectibles to resorts and restaurants.

And no wonder — Budd has lived in Mexico City, working as a journalist and foreign correspondent since 1958; and for the past decade as a travel columnist for the city's top newspaper, Reforma. iMexico! is an updated compilation of 10 years worth of his columns.

Jimm Budd's iMexico! is available to download for \$5 on [Amazon.com/kindle](http://Amazon.com/kindle).



## JOSEPH ROSENDO'S TRAVELSCOPE RECEIVES TWO PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS!

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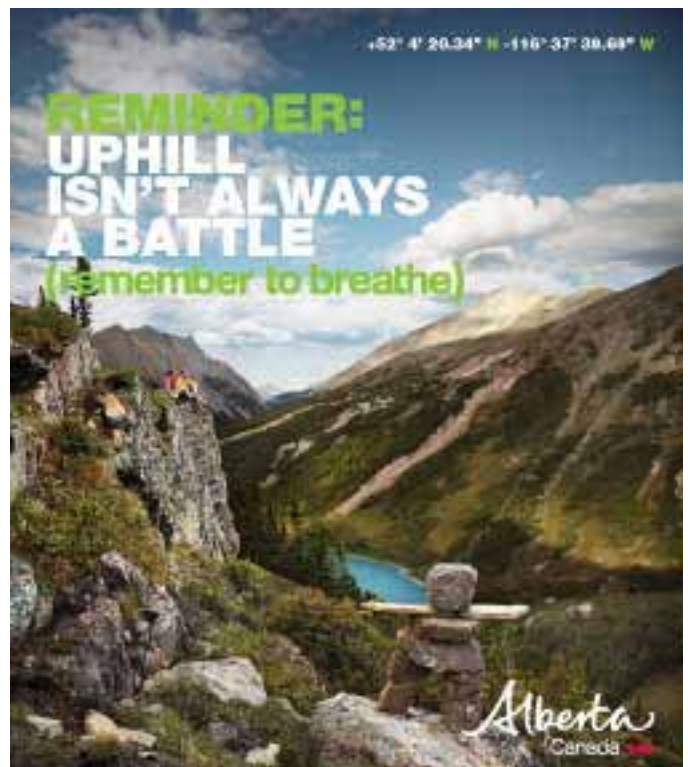
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**Joseph Rosendo** has been an award-winning travel, food and wine journalist for 31 years. His awards include Canada's Globe and Mail Travel Media award and France's Medaille d'Or du Tourisme. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife and producer, Julie, and their cats, Topanga Jones, Carlito and Bates.

Boston, MA - Sun. 11:00am  
Chicago, IL - Sun. 11:30am & Thurs. 9:30pm  
Cincinnati, OH - Sun. 3:00pm  
Houston, TX - Sun. 1:30pm  
Orlando, FL - Wed. 9:30pm  
Phoenix, AZ - Sun. 6:30pm  
Portland, OR - Wed. 6:00pm  
Tampa, FL - Mon. 9:30pm  
Washington, DC - Mon. 6:00pm

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